

Atty. Docket Num. PALM.0933

Patent No. 6,696,153

IN THE CLAIMS

1 1. (original) A method for operating a portable computing device, the method  
2 comprising:  
3 coupling a signal line accessible through an outlet of the portable computing device to  
4 a communication device;  
5 detecting a signal on the signal line to determine whether the communication device is  
6 actively connected to a portable computing device; and  
7 suspending execution of at least a portion of a program, the portion of the program  
8 reducing power consumption of the portable computing device.

1 2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein suspending execution of at least a portion  
2 of a program for reducing power consumption of the portable computing device includes  
3 suspending occurrence of a timeout feature, wherein the time-out feature significantly reduces  
4 power consumption of the portable computing device.

1 3. (original) The method of claim 2, including sending communications from the  
2 portable computing device using the communication device when the communication device  
3 is actively connected to the portable computing device.

1 4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein coupling a signal line includes extending  
2 the signal line to a pin element of a pin connector forming the outlet.

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1 5. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein suspending execution of at least a portion  
2 of a program for reducing power consumption of the portable computing device includes  
3 selectively suspending the occurrence of the time-out feature when the communication device  
4 is actively coupled.

1 6. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein suspending execution of at least a portion  
2 of a program for reducing power consumption of the portable computing device includes  
3 disabling the time-out feature while the communication device is actively coupled.

1 7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting the signal includes measuring a  
2 voltage level of the signal.

1 8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting a signal from the communication  
2 device includes coupling the portable computing device to the communication device using a  
3 pin connector, and wherein one pin in the pin connector extends into the signal line.

1 9. (original) The method of claim 2, including launching a program that is downloaded  
2 to the portable computing device through the communication device once the occurrence of  
3 the time-out feature is suspended.

1 10. (original) The method of claim 2, including launching a program once the occurrence  
2 of the time-out feature is suspended, the program providing a display selected from a group of

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3 displays consisting of a world clock, a digital image stored from a digital camera device, and  
4 a display of real-time information provided by a data network.

1 Claims 11-29 cancelled.

1 30. (new) The method of claim 1, including determining a type of the communication  
2 device.

1 31. (new) The method of claim 30, including configuring software executable on the  
2 portable computing device based on the type of the communication device.

1 32. (new) The method of claim 31, wherein configuring software executable on the  
2 portable computing device based on the type of the communication device comprises  
3 determining whether the communication device supplies power to the portable computer  
4 device.

1 33. (new) The method of claim 32, wherein configuring software executable on the  
2 portable computing device based on the type of the communication device further comprises  
3 allowing execution of software according to the power required by the software and the power  
4 expected to be supplied by the communication device.

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1 34. (new) The method of claim 32, wherein software executable on the portable  
2 computing device includes software to continuously illuminate a display of the portable  
3 computing device at a maximum illumination level.

1 35. (new) The method of claim 32, wherein software executable on the portable  
2 computing device includes software to continuously display a digital image on the display of  
3 the portable computing device at a maximum illumination level.

1 36. (new) A method for operating a portable computing device, comprising:  
2 automatically determining whether an accessory device is communicatively coupled to  
3 the portable computing device;  
4 automatically determining a type of accessory device communicatively device coupled  
5 to the portable computing device; and  
6 based on the type of accessory device, executing at least one program.

1 37. (new) The method of claim 36, wherein the at least one program controls an intensity  
2 of light in a display of the portable computer device.

1 38. (new) The method of claim 37, wherein the at least one program that controls an  
2 intensity of light in a display of the portable computer device maintains a high intensity of  
3 light in the display.

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1 39. (new) The method of claim 36, wherein determining a type of accessory device  
2 communicatively device coupled to the portable computing device comprises determining a  
3 level of power that is supplied by the accessory device to the portable computing device.

1 40. (new) The method of claim 36, wherein the at least one program executed includes a  
2 program that is determined to require a level of power that is available to the computing  
3 device from at least one of an internal power supply of the portable computing device and the  
4 accessory device.

1 41. (new) The method of claim 36, wherein the at least one program executed includes  
2 continuously displaying an electronic image on a display of the portable computer at a  
3 maximum illumination level.